

tion as to how His followers should act as they carried out His instructions.

He was sending them forth "as lambs among wolves." There was no campaign fund with which to provide for them; they were to depend entirely upon the hospitality of those among whom they went. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and they were engaged in a great work.

They were taught what to preach—"The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you;" and it came nigh both to those who received them and to those who rejected them. The former received their reward for extending a welcome and the latter their condemnation for rejecting the opportunity offered.

A GREAT NEED

One thought stands out so prominently in our text that I shall leave others to comment upon other parts of it while I ask attention to the plentitude of the harvest and the scarcity of the laborers. When was the harvest more plentiful or the need for laborers greater than now?

The world is groaning beneath the burden of civilization. It has everything except the one thing that it needs most.

Behold the evidences of material wealth! When did man have such mastery over the forces of nature? The waterfalls that once plunged uselessly down the mountain side are now estimated in units of horsepower; the lightning that was once regarded only as a messenger of death is now man's most useful servant.

Man once was content to dwell on the earth's surface, now he burrows down thousands of feet in search of fuel and the precious metals, and ascends into the clouds with his airships. Inventions have followed fast upon each other until one arm can do what a thousand arms could not have done a few centuries ago.

IN SPITE OF ALL THIS

Cities have sprung up with their massive business buildings and majestic temples of worship. Libraries, schools, colleges and universities are scattered over our land. Riches are

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accumulated as never before, and learning among the masses surpasses the dreams of the ancients.

Mighty ships plow the ocean and enormous engines carry freight and passengers across the land; and people rush to and fro in horseless cars.

Distant regions are bound together by iron rails and widely scattered continents are united by rapid ships. The telephone has converted each nation into a whispering gallery. The telegraph system has eliminated space and the radio opens up possibilities that obscure the line between dreams and real life.

Tractors drag gang plows through the fields, complicated machines cut and bind the grain, steam threshers separate the wheat from the chaff and mighty mills turn out billions of bushels of flour and meal.

And yet the problem of existence is more serious than when the soil was tilled by oxen and man plowed with a crooked stick—more serious than when wheat was trampled out by horses and ground in mortars.

PENALTIES OF CIVILIZATION

In proportion as people crowd together in cities they become estranged, crime increases and destitution spreads. Commercial rivalry becomes a cause of international conflicts and science makes war more hellish and more destructive.

We have just come out of a war which resulted, directly or indirectly in the death of 30,000,000 human beings, in the destruction of \$300,000,000,000 worth of property and in the multiplying of the world's debts more than six fold, and—think of it—nearly every nation engaged in the war was a so-called Christian nation and the nominal patron of some branch of the church that bears the name of the Prince of Peace. And now the profiteers are trying to devour those who escaped the sword.

In our own favored land—the greatest republic in history, and the nation with the greatest moral prestige—we have to have "white slave" laws to protect women from being kidnapped and sold into a life of shame; child labor laws to keep the blood of children from being coined into dividends; anti-trust laws to keep small enterprises from being driven into bankruptcy by larger business rivals; anti-option laws to protect the farmer from gamblers on the market; restrictions and restraints of every kind are necessary to keep avarice within bounds.

This is but a brief review of a few of the larger evils with which society and government are compelled to grapple. Are they the product of modern civilization or do they exist in spite of civilization?

THE HARVEST IS RIPE

If ever the world needed the teachings of Christ it needs those teachings now. The world has been wearing the devil's yoke and bearing the devil's burden, but the yoke is becoming too hard and the burden too heavy. The greatest nations of Europe stand on the verge of an abyss and look down upon universal bankruptcy, while in this nation we find the gulf between Capital and Labor more acute than it has ever been before.

To whom can the world turn except to the One whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light? His Gospel is for nations as well as for individuals—for the regeneration of society through the regeneration of individuals.

Surely the harvest is ripe, but how can laborers be secured? Missionaries are needed to carry the gospel into heathen lands and they are also needed at home to avert calamities that threaten, if it so be that "the wages of sin is death." How can society be saved from the punishments that are linked to transgressions? Only by those who believe in God.

Without a belief in God man can-

not understand the world, and the Bible gives us our only conception of God and our only conception of Christ. Without a belief in God there can be no sense of responsibility, and without a sense of responsibility there is no foundation upon which to build society.

THE CHURCH'S TASK

The Church must lead in all moral reforms or forfeit its claims to confidence; and the Sunday School comes next to the Church, in the influence which it exerts upon the thought of the religious world.

Education cannot be substituted for religion; the mind is but a machine and is fit only to serve the heart. The heart must occupy the throne and direct one's course, "for out of it are the issues of life." The mind may wander—its thoughts are superficial—but as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Mind worship is the basic sin of this generation. Science, one of the most honorable branches of learning when it deals with truth, at times descends from its high plane and indulges in guesses which, unsupported by facts, attack all that is sacred. The most destructive of these guesses is the one that links man in generations with the brute and paralyzes his sense of responsibility to God.

REVERENT WORSHIP NEEDED

The world needs reverent worship today more than it needs vain speculations and light literature. We not only need to double our church membership and multiply our Sunday School rolls, but we need even more to intensify our devotion and to apply to every phase of life the code of morals that Moses brought down from Sinai and that Christ enlarged in His Sermon on the Mount.

Christ taught that His followers should be the salt of the earth, but He warned against the uselessness of salt when it loses its savor. Every Christian should be a missionary, spreading the gospel of Christ by

word and illustrating it by example. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only."

A heart can be changed in a moment and, therefore, a nation can be born in a day



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